

## Helena PAL

For the last seven years, the Helena PAL JMG class has prepared tabletop trees and wreaths for the annual Intermountain Children's Home Festival of Trees.

This community event raises money by selling trees and wreaths through silent auction bidding. The Helena PAL class prepared two tabletop trees and three wreaths this year. Their entry "Christmas Is Coming" was awarded the Best of Show honor for all tabletop trees. The 5 items sold for a combined total of \$495 with the money going to the Children's Home. The students who worked on the winning entry were Kaitlyn Gillespie, Clarrisa Tighe, Samantha Stephenson, Courtney Smith, and Sarah Hays.

**Congratulations PAL!**

## "Best in Show!"



*The JMG class at Havre High School held its annual Initiation & Installation ceremony on Monday, September 29th. All of the students were involved, either in the ceremony or assisting in the invitations, food or cleanup. Mrs. Paulette Cronk, a former Havre HS teacher and substitute, was the afternoon's guest speaker.*



*Among the many guests at the 15th annual Fall Leadership Conference were community partners and business leaders that shared their stories with students from all over the state. Pictured at left are Sandy Merdinger, director of the Gear Up program, and career specialist, Teresa Turner of Poplar.*



JMG students from Glasgow High School are shown above doing a teamwork activity that involves the whole class.

## HELENA HIGH SCHOOL EXTREME MAKEOVER

The JMG students of Helena High School have been busy working on a major project this year that will give their Cupola Courtyard a new and refreshing look. With the assistance of the welding, construction, drafting and art students, they hope to develop an area where students and staff can eat, study or relax in a safe and calming environment.

The students have broken the project down into phases, beginning with developing a plan. Each student created a draft of what they thought the courtyard should look like, and from these drawings they compiled ideas to come up with a fantastic design. They sent the design to the drafting students at HHS who drew up the final rendering. From there the students obtained quotes from local businesses for a cost to complete the project, with the final estimate at \$7,200.

The next phase was to determine how the project was to be funded. They came to the conclusion that fundraising and developing a grant proposal would be the only way to successfully have the project become a reality. Mrs. Parker, the JMG career specialist, emphasized that since this was a "student project" that the students should be involved in the grant writing phase. The students obtained grant information from three different sources and wrote proposals as to what the funds would be used for, stressing that the entire student body would benefit. The students then addressed the need for the project, stating the relevance, description and future plans.

In November the JMG class was surprised by a visit from members of the Helena Education Foundation as they brought in a check for \$3,000 to help make this project a reality! Cookie Dough sales and hosting the Winter Formal Dance are major fundraising events planned to help with funding.

The work has already begun on the courtyard. The trees have been trimmed and cleared, the timbers have been laid and the river rock has been placed. The students are definitely committed to making this project happen!

Future plans for the courtyard include: placing garbage containers in the area, that will be built by the welding students; the construction of benches and planters, all built by the students, and a painted mural designed by the art students. In the spring the class will place sand and lay the pavers to complete the patio area. When the project is complete, the courtyard will improve the overall look and feel of our school and will be available for all students and staff to enjoy!



The JMG class at Helena HS was busy cleaning out the existing courtyard for their new Extreme Makeover. The students pictured at left and right were busy hauling out branches that were trimmed to clean up the Copula Courtyard and make way for the "new" courtyard which was designed by the JMG students.

